

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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Memorandum

TO : Ch/G

DATE: 19 April 1965

FROM : Ch/D/GC

SUBJECT: Assessment of current ADP programs and projected requirements for the period FY 1966-70 - Cartography Division

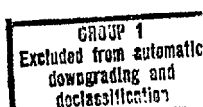
1. On-Going Programs:

a. In cooperation with PSD and MD/OCR, an automatic photocomposing machine (Photon) is producing, on a test-run basis, photocomposed map type for use in the preparation of maps and charts. At present, the system uses a punched paper tape to drive the photocomposing machine. This system of setting type, it is anticipated, will eventually replace approximately 75% of the type set by conventional hand methods. When fully operative, automatic type setting will result in more efficiency and greatly expand the volume of work produced without a corresponding increase in man-hours of work applied to this phase of map production.

b. Current projects call for the production of maps with special-purpose geographic grids. These projects are being accepted by the Division only because master computer programs have been prepared and magnetic tapes are available to drive an automatic plotter which "drafts" the basic information. A library of master tapes, particularly for the Azimuthal Equidistant Projection, has been built up and a series of maps have been prepared by this method. Automatic plotting of coordinate intersections reduces a long, laborious, hand-plotting chore to a simple machine operation. Since these maps are most usable in the plotting of satellite positions and azimuthal configurations, future expansion of requirements is anticipated. In turn, greater research effort will be necessary to develop more efficient plotting devices.

c. Production control records of the Division are being converted to machine processing. With approximately 850 charts and maps in progress at all times, it has become necessary to develop more efficient methods of keeping records. Additional flexibility in this area also assists the Map Library in maintaining more effective records.

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2. Projection of Requirements: Major requirements for automatic processing in D/GC largely fall into the following fields:

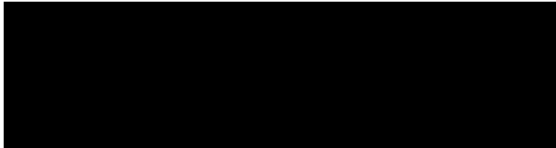
a. Research leading to the automation of the drafting process, and

b. The utilization of automation, in its various aspects, in the research-compilation side of production.

Item "a" probably will be a long-term developmental process requiring research in the adaptation of newly devised equipment not yet available. During the next five years, the Division will be required to develop an automated process to assist the time-consuming, laborious hand drafting of maps. The system which will evolve will force changes in the compilation procedures and result in man-hour savings in that sector.

Item "b" represents a process of evolution. The various activities currently in progress, such as, automated compilation plotting of grids and coastlines, target plotting, indexing of street names of city plans, data banks of place names, gazetteers, type setting, and record keeping, will receive continuing emphasis. The success of these projects will depend upon continuing assistance from other components of the Agency.

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